

## ASSESSMENT REPORT 2014-2015

**Software Systems Design MS**  
(Instructional Degree Program)

**MSDS**  
(Degree Level)

### **Program Mission:**

The general mission of the SSD Program in the Department of Media Arts & Technology is to educate students in the technical skills, theoretical underpinnings, and the sociocultural context for the field of software development. SSD seeks to inspire students to work creatively and collaboratively towards the goal of contributing to our own communities and to innovate and excel in the software landscape. Collaboration, experimentation and a drive to push the boundaries of current technology platforms.

### **Student Learning Outcome 1:**

Students will demonstrate the ability to write programs across a variety of language types, showing an understanding of syntax, logic, and objected oriented programming.

### **NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 1**

- Effective Use of Technology

### **First Means of Assessment for Outcome 1:**

SSD 600 Principles of Software Development. 80% of students should be able to attain a grade of B or better on the midterm project covering multiple programming languages and written test.

### **Summary of Data:**

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	5	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	5	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	100%

### **Interpretation of Results for Outcome 1:**

Students are learning to switch between programming languages effectively. This is a key goal of the program, to prepare people for a developer position in any language. The secondary goal is to give the students a feel for multiple languages and platforms so that they can make a more informed decision about their field project choice, and that seems to be effective so far, guiding first semester students to make a more focused research choice to choose their project in their 2nd semester.

**Student Learning Outcome 2:**

Students will demonstrate their ability to visually present research to an audience.

**NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 2**

- Effective Communication Skills

**First Means of Assessment for Outcome 2:**

By end of the first academic year, students will deliver a qualifying Oral Exam to the faculty. Successful competition of the oral exam enables them to continue into the second year of the program. 95% of students should be able to pass this oral exam.

**Summary of Data**

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	1	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	1	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	100%

**Interpretation of Results for Outcome 2:**

This is a new policy and is so far working well. Students get a chance to practice presentation skills in first semester before a group of faculty, and they practice this particular presentation throughout second semester with a couple of faculty. We would like to figure out a way students can help each other practice as well, but the pool was too small this semester.

**Student Learning Outcome 3:**

Students will be able to demonstrate the results of their research to an audience.

**NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 3**

- Mastery of Content Knowledge and Skills

**First Means of Assessment for Outcome 3:**

Students will use an Oral Examination to defend their field project or thesis to their graduate faculty committee. 80% of students should be able to pass this oral exam.

**Summary of Data**

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	1	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	1	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	100%

### **Interpretation of Results for Outcome 3:**

The student was well prepared and practiced by the time their presentation was scheduled and they demonstrated very well their mastery of subject via their field project.